Appendix 2

Site Basic Records for CDC data base for the 14 reference areas used in inventory.

SUMMER CREEK
214

Location
Ecoregion Section: BLUE MOUNTAINS SECTION (M332G)
Watershed: 17050201045
County: Adams
USGS Quad: OXBOW 4411687
LAT: 445450N S: 445403N E: 1164648W
LONG: 1164800W N: 445530N W: 1164907W
Legal Description (township/range, section, meridian, note)

018N004W	02	BO	SW4
018N004W	03	BO	S2S2
018N004W	10	BO	E2, NW4, NE4SW4
018N004W	11	BO	W2, SE4, SW4NE4
018N004W	14	BO	N2N2
018N004W	15	BO	NE4NE4

Directions:
The Summer Creek site is located on the eastern break of Hells Canyon above Oxbow Reservoir, northwest of the Cuddy Mountains, about 4 air miles south-southeast of Oxbow Dam on the Snake River. From Council, Idaho, travel northwest on the Hornet Creek Road (FS Road 002) past Hornet Guard Station and Lafferty Camp to the settlement of Bear roughly a total of 30 miles (48 km). Continue on FS Road 002 past Bear about 3 miles (4.9 km) to the intersection with FS Road 071. Turn left and head southwest about 11.5 miles (18.6 km) on FS Road 071 to the end of the road which is at the eastern boundary of the site.

Site Design
Designer: Wellner, C. A.
Date: 85-11-10
Design Justification:
Site boundaries encompass both Sheep Peak RNA and Summer Creek RNA boundaries.
Site Comments:

Biological and Physical Characteristics
Size. Primary and Secondary Acres: 480.00
Primary Acres: 480.00
Elevation (ft). Minimum: 4600
Maximum: 5257
Site Description:
The Sheep Peak site is on the breaklands of Hells Canyon above Oxbow Reservoir. Elevations at the site range from 5257 feet (1602 m) at the top of Sheep Peak down to 2600 feet (792 m) where Summer Creek leaves the western end of the site. Vegetation on the steep slopes includes stiff sagebrush/Sandberg's bluegrass (Artemisia rigida/Poa secunda), Douglas-fir/mountain ninebark (Pseudotsuga menziesii/Physocarpus malvaceus), Douglas-fir/pinegrass (P. menziesii/Calamagrostis rubescens), curl-leaf mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus ledifolius), green-bush/bluebunch wheatgrass (Glossopetalon nevadense/Agropyron

spicatum), bitterbrush/bluebunch wheatgrass (Purshia tridentata/A. spicatum), and bluebunch wheatgrass-Sandberg's bluegrass (A. spicatum-P. secunda). In addition, a small population of the rare plant Camassia cusickii occupies sloping seeps on the slopes adjacent to Summer Creek. The white alder/syringa (Alnus rhombifolia/Philadelphus lewisii) community type occupies the narrow riparian zone.

Key Environmental Factors:

Fire in the grasslands and woodlands. Annual and episodic high water events along the creek. Ungulate grazing in the mountain mahogany stands. The area experienced debris flows and flooding in January 1997, scouring the streambed throughout its length in the site. Substrate is basalt.

Climate:

Winter and spring climatic conditions are dominated by the Pacific Maritime influence, resulting is winters that are moist and mild; with periodic prevalence of cold, dry continental. Summer months, are hot and dry.

Landuse History:

The site has no known history of mining, grazing or timber harvest, although the grasslands have certainly been grazed in the past.

Cultural Features:

A cultural resource inventory has not been completed for the area. An old, steep, overgrown road was constructed up the drainage bottom, but not in the riparian zone, mostly on the slopes above.

Element Occurrences (element/size):

PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII/CALAMAGROSTIS RUBESCENS	0 NO DET
PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII/PHYSOCARPUS MALVACEUS	0 NO DET
ALNUS RHOMBIFOLIA/PHILADELPHUS LEWISII	1 LINEAR MILE
CERCOCARPUS LEDIFOLIUS/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	0 NO DET
GLOSSOPETALON NEVADENSE/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	0 NO DET
PURSHIA TRIDENTATA/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	0 NO DET.
ARTEMISIA RIGIDA/POA SECUNDA	0 NO DET
AGROPYRON SPICATUM-POA SECUNDA, SCABLAND	0 NO DET
CAMASSIA CUSICKII SEEP	0.1
MIMULUS CLIVICOLA	10 SQ M
CAMASSIA CUSICKII	

Biodiversity Significance: B3

Exemplary of many grassland, shrubland, riparian, and woodland communities. Some are globally rare. Two rare plant species are known from the site.

Protection and Stewardship

Designation: AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (BLM portion)
RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (BLM portion)
PROPOSED RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (Payette NF portion)

Protection Comments:

The area is not formally established. The level of conservation management afforded the area is unknown

Information Needs:

1996: Plant community composition data are needed to verify upland element occurrences.

Protection Urgency: P3

The area is not formally protected. There is no evidence of active monitoring of use.

Management Needs:

Management Urgency: M3

Management actions may be needed to protect plant community stand structure and composition.

Current Landuse:

Onsite: For the most part, little human use and influence was observed in 1997. The old road does allow access to cows from the more heavily used lower canyon slopes below the RNA, although this use is light.

Offsite: The east half of the site and adjacent land to the north and east is Payette NF and private land. The Forest land is within Forest Plan Management Area 3, Hornet. Area 3 is managed for mixed uses including recreation, livestock grazing, and timber harvest. The west half of the site and lands to the south and west are managed by the BLM's Cascade RA.

Exotic Species Comments:

Populations of exotic species have not been documented.

MA Comments:

The Summer Creek site comprises both the proposed Sheep Peak RNA (Payette NF, Council RD) and the established Summer Creek RNA (Lower Snake River District BLM, Cascade RA).

References

U89CRA04IDUS Crawford, R. C., J. S. Kagan, and R. K. Moseley. 1989. Final Report, Phase II, 1989 National Natural Landmark Project, Columbia Plateau Natural Region Ecological Themes; Including the following ecological theme site evaluations: Ponderosa Pine, Grand Fir, Low Sagebrush, Stiff Sagebrush, Salt Desert Shrub, and Montane, Subalpine, and Alpine parklands and Wetlands. Unpublished report prepared for the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Seattle, WA. 91 pp.

U86WEL04IDUS Wellner, C. 1986. Letter to Dick Geier, Area Manager, Cascade Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, proposing boundaries for a Sheep Peak pRNA on BLM and USFS land.

Record Maintenance

Lead Responsibility: USIDHP

Edition Date: 96-08-21 Edition Author: A. H. Pitner

GOODRICH CREEK
107

Location
Ecoregion Section: BLUE MOUNTAINS SECTION (M332G)
Watershed: 17050124077
County: Adams
USGS Quad: GOODRICH 4411665
LAT: 444015N S: 443955N E: 1163403W
LONG: 1163435W N: 444035N W: 1163515W
Legal Description (township/range, section, meridian, note)

015N002W	4	BO	NW4
015N002W	5	BO	E2
016N002W	32	BO	E2
016N002W	33	BO	W2

Directions:
Goodrich Creek RNA; a 9.0 air miles NE of Cambridge. From Cambridge, take the Goodrich Road (which begins on Highway 95 ca 1.0 mile E of Cambridge) for several miles to Goodrich (townsite). Proceed along Goodrich Creek Road for ca 2.5 miles and park where the road crosses the creek. Site is extends N and E from this point.

Site Design
Designer: C.A. Wellner and R.K. Moseley
Date: 85-05-01
Design Justification:
Site boundaries coincide with RNA boundaries.
Site Comments:
1992: RNA was visited by Boise District BLM botanist and biologist. This area burned in 1986, and while riparian shrubs have responded quite well, upland shrubs have not. Few bitterbrush remain, and mountain shrubs (chokecherry, hawthorne, serviceberry) have minimal regrowth given the time elapsed. Much of this is probably due to drought conditions since the fire. Due to the distance to water and steepness of the west side of the area, livestock use appeared minimal. However, use on the gently sloping ridgetop has apparently been greater at times, given the large number of annual grasses and bulbous bluegrass present. Location of plots 97RM001, 97RM002, and 97RM003.

Biological and Physical Characteristics
Size. Primary and Secondary Acres: 440.00
Primary Acres: 440.00
Elevation (ft). Minimum: 3120
Maximum: 3867
Site Description:
Site consists of riparian woodland, a steep hillside of Purshia tridentata/Agropyron spicatum habitat type, and a ridgeline with a mosaic of Eriogonum scablands and tall shrub types. Site was burned August 1986 and is being monitored for success of artificial and natural vegetation regeneration. There was high mortality of the

bitterbrush and it is regenerating poorly. There is however, a good cover of bluebunch wheatgrass and little evidence of serious weed invasions. The riparian zone is dominated by black cottonwood and water birch communities that were nearly completely burned in 1986. All woody riparian species appeared to be regenerating well during visits to the site in late 1986, 1990, and 1997.

Key Environmental Factors:

Fire in grasslands, woodlands and riparian zone. Annual and episodic high water events in riparian zone. Area experienced an episodic event January 1997, with numerous slumps and debris flows evident in the site and along stream. Substrate is basalt.

Landuse History:

Cattle grazing and, to a lesser extent, timber harvest are the dominant land use surrounding the site.

Cultural Features:

A very old trail was cut into the hillside on the slope east of the creek through the site. It probably predates the Goodrich Creek Road, which is on the slope above the creek to the west.

Element Occurrences (element/size):

POPULUS TRICHOCARPA/SYMPHORICARPOS ALBUS	4
BETULA OCCIDENTALIS/MESIC FORB	2
PURSHIA TRIDENTATA/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	75
POPULUS TRICHOCARPA/SALIX LASIANDRA	5

Biodiversity Significance: B3

High quality examples of representative shrubland and riparian community types and natural processes (especially fire and flooding).

Protection and Stewardship

Designation: RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

Protection Comments:

Site is entirely within an established RNA.

Protection Urgency: P5

Protected as RNA in Cascade RMP.

Management Needs:

Monitor fire recovery, especially in relation to weeds invasions in the upland.

Management Urgency: M3

Ongoing monitoring and possibly management actions are needed to ensure that the site remains in high quality.

Current Landuse:

Onsite: Minimal cattle grazing was observed in 1997 at the extreme downstream and upstream ends of the creek in the site.

Offsite: Most of the surrounding land is grazed by livestock, and some wander up the gentle slopes to the ridgecrest along the eastern boundary. No grazing has been observed on the steep shrublands above Goodrich Creek.

Exotic Species Comments: Bulbous bluegrass is well established in some communities.

MA Comments: This conservation site is wholly within and is defined by Goodrich Creek RNA.

HIXON SHARPTAIL
123

Location
Ecoregion Section: BLUE MOUNTAINS SECTION (M332G)
Watershed: 17050124
17050124066
17050124068
17050124069
County: Washington
USGS Quad: MANN CREEK NW 4411648
MIDVALE HILL 4411647
HOPPER CREEK 4411657
STURGILL PEAK 4411658
LAT: 442800N S: 442445N E: 1164715W
LONG: 1165600W N: 443228N W: 1165730W
Legal Description (township/range, section, meridian, note)
013N004W 03-10, 15-21 BO portions
013N005W 01-04, 09-17 BO
014N004W 19, 28-34 BO
014N005W 23-27, 34-36 BO
Directions:
The Hixon Sharptail site lies approximately 15 miles north of Weiser, Idaho. It can be reached from U.S. Highway 95 by heading north on the Upper Mann Creek road for about 6 miles. This road bisects the site. Southeastern portions of the site can be reached via the Deer Creek road, a spur off the Mann Creek Road, and proceeding along a series of unpaved and four-wheel drive roads. The Fairchild Reservoir area can be accessed via a 4-wheel drive road that leads off the Mann Creek Road directly to the reservoir.

Site Design
Designer: Michael Mancuso
Date:
Design Justification:
Site boundaries correspond to the boundaries of the Hixon Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitat management plan area.
Site Comments:
The area supports one of the last and largest populations of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in western Idaho. Location of plots 97RM30-34 and 96MM001-16.

Biological and Physical Characteristics
Size. Primary and Secondary Acres: 27,740.00
Primary Acres: 27,740.00
Elevation (ft). Minimum: 3100
Maximum: 5400
Site Description:
The Hixon Sharptail site is dominated by sagebrush-steppe vegetation, although scabland, mountain shrub, and grassland habitats are also

common. Forest habitats occur on northerly aspects at higher elevations, and riparian vegetation is associated with most watercourses. The area is characterized by rolling, broken terrain dissected by several minor to larger-sized drainages such as Mann, Sage, and Keithly Creeks. Steep topography is associated with slopes descending the broad ridges to the drainage bottoms.

Key Environmental Factors:

Fire is an important environmental factor in most habitats. Relatively recent wildlfires have converted large areas of sagebrush-steppe to grass-dominated vegetation. In many places, invasive species such as bulbous bluegrass and cheatgrass are now the dominant grasses. Sagebrush and bitterbrush regeneration is spotty in most of these burned areas. Regeneration of mountain shrub species has been favorable in most cases. Annual and episodic floods are important in the stream channels. Recent, large gravel bars in Sage Creek are evidence of the episodic floods that took place in January 1997. Substrate is basalt.

Climate:

Most precipitation occurs as snow during the November through January winter months. Another spike of precipitation occurs in May and June, before a pronounced dry period lasting from July through October begins. December is the coldest and July the warmest months of the year.

Landuse History:

The area has a long history of cattle grazing.

Cultural Features:

Numerous roads, fences, a reservoir, and trans-basin ditches.

Element Occurrences (element/size):

TYMPANUCHUS PHASIANELLUS COLUMBIANUS	
PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII/PHYSOCARPUS MALVACEUS	455*
CRATAEGUS DOUGLASII/ROSA WOODSII	1
ALNUS INCANA/CORNUS STOLONIFERA	35
ARTEMISIA ARBUSCULA ARBUSCULA/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	194*
ERIOGONUM SPHAEROCEPHALUM/POA SECUNDA	416*
AGROPYRON SPICATUM-POA SECUNDA/BALSAMORHIZA SAGITTATA	140*
SALIX LASIOLEPIS COVER TYPE	17
SCIRPUS PALLIDUS HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	0.2
ALNUS RHOMBIFOLIA/CORNUS SERICEA	20
ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA XERICENSIS/AGROPYRON SPICATUM	805*
ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA XERICENSIS/FESTUCA IDAHOENSIS	60*
PERAPHYLLUM RAMOSISSIMUM	5 AC

Biodiversity Significance: B3

Biodiversity values are highlighted by one of the last and largest populations of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse left in western Idaho. Swainson's hawk, redband trout, and squawapple are other elements of conservation concern in Idaho that occur within the site. Several quality plant communities are also represented, including xeric sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass, bitterbrush/bluebunch wheatgrass, rock buckwheat/Sandberg's bluegrass, thyme-leaved buckwheat/Sandberg's buckwheat, bluebunch wheatgrass-Sandberg's bluegrass/arrowleaf balsamroot, and mountain shrub. A large area at the core of the site

has been excluded from livestock grazing since the mid-80's.

Other Values: V3

The site provides important habitat for many game and non-game wildlife species. It has high watershed protection, aesthetic, and recreational values as well. The location of the Buckwheat Flats RNA and the Hixon sharp-tailed grouse ACEC within the site highlight its research value.

Protection and Stewardship

Designation: AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN
RESEARCH NATURAL AREA
PRIVATE LAND - UNPROTECTED
TNC PRESERVE

Protection Comments:

BLM and TNC lands within the site are protected, although portions of BLM land have not yet been designated as part of the ACEC. This is scheduled to take place as part of the planning process associated with revisions to the Cascade RMP.

Information Needs:

Several sharp-tailed grouse ecology questions remain concerning the site area. Only riparian community types within the exclosure pasture have been thoroughly inventoried and mapped (in 1997). Only riparian cover types have been mapped in the grazed portion of the site.

Protection Urgency: P3

No serious immediate threats are known. Parcels of private land are intermixed within the site which the BLM has identified for acquisition or conservation agreements. These actions will facilitate management and sharptail conservation in the area.

Management Needs:

Monitoring of grazing practices and compliance. Periodic repair and construction of fence. Monitoring of squawapple occurrences.

Management Urgency: M4

Current Landuse:

Onsite: Because much of the area was formerly used as a cattle ranching operation much of the property is fenced.

Offsite: Most of the intermixed private land is used for livestock grazing. Trespassing cattle may be a potential problem in some places. This is some trans-basin diversions from upper Sage Creek into Fairchild Reservoir, where it eventually is released in late summer and gets back into Sage Creek lower down. The middle stretch of Sage Creek may see unnaturally low flows during the irrigation season.

Exotic Species Comments:

A few local leafy spurge populations are known. Hoary white top is established in the area, especially around Fairchild Reservoir. Spotted knapweed is known from the nearby Midvale Hill area and probably occurs within the site. A few dense patches of Canada thistle

appear ominous in the Alnus incana stands along Sage Creek.

MA Comments:

The BLM's Habitat Management Plan area is managed cooperatively with the IDFG and TNC.

References

U94BLM03IDUS U.S.D.I., Bureau of Land Management, Boise District Office. 1994. Hixon Columbian sharp-tailed grouse Habitat Management Plan. Unpublished report prepared for the BLM, Boise District, Cascade Resource Area, Boise, ID. 30 p., plus appendices.

U87MAR01IDUS Marks, J. S., and V. S. Marks. 1987. Habitat selection by Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in west-central Idaho. Unpublished Research Report. USDI Bureau of Land Management, Boise District. 115 pp.

U97MAN02IDUS Mancuso, M., and R. Moseley. 1997. Vegetation of the Hixon Columbian sharp-tailed grouse habitat management plan area, Washington County, Idaho. Technical Bulletin No. 97-8. Idaho Bureau of Land Management, Boise, ID. 40 p., plus appendices.

Record Maintenance

Lead Responsibility: USIDHP

Edition Date: 97-02-25 Edition Author: M. Mancuso